

SUBPOENAS

(h) Pursuant to clause 2(m) of House rule XI, a subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or a subcommittee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present.

RULE 3—GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY

(a) In order to assist the House in:

(1) Its analysis, appraisal, evaluation of (A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the laws enacted by the Congress, or (B) conditions and circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation, and

(2) its formulation, consideration and enactment of such modifications or changes in those laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate, the Committee and its various subcommittees, consistent with their jurisdiction as set forth in Rule 4, shall have oversight responsibilities as provided in subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Committee and its subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the applications, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof, in order to determine whether such laws and the programs thereunder are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the Congress and whether such programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated.

(2) In addition, the Committee and its subcommittees shall review and study any conditions or circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee (whether or not any bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto), and shall on continuing basis undertake future research and forecasting on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee.

(3) Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall meet in open session, with a quorum present, to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress for submission to the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Government Reform, in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of House rule X.

RULE 4—SUBCOMMITTEES

ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

(a)(1) There shall be three subcommittees of the Committee as follows:

(A) Subcommittee on Health, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.

(B) Subcommittee on Benefits, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over compensation, general and special pensions of all the wars of the United States, life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Force, cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior, burial benefits, education of veterans, vocational rehabilitation, veterans' housing programs, readjustment of servicemen to civilian life, and soldiers' and sailors' civil relief.

(C) Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which shall have authority over

matters that are referred to the subcommittee by the Chairman of the full Committee for investigation and appropriate recommendations. Provided however, That the operations of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations shall in no way limit the responsibility of the other subcommittees on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for carrying out their oversight duties. This subcommittee shall not have legislative jurisdiction and no bills or resolutions shall be referred to it.

In addition, each subcommittee shall have responsibility for such other measures or matters as the Chairman refers to it.

(2) Any vacancy in the membership of a subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of that subcommittee.

REFERRAL TO SUBCOMMITTEES

(b)(1) The Chairman of the Committee may refer a measure or matter, which is within the general responsibility of more than one of the subcommittees of the Committee, as the Chairman deems appropriate.

(2) In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chairman of the Committee may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Committee.

POWERS AND DUTIES

(c)(1) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

(2) Whenever a subcommittee has ordered a bill, resolution, or other matter to be reported to the Committee, the Chairman of the subcommittee reporting the bill, resolution, or matter to the full Committee, or any member authorized by the subcommittee to do so shall notify the Chairman and the ranking minority party member of the Committee of the Subcommittee's action.

(3) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee during any of its meetings and hearings, but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the meeting or hearing.

(4) Each subcommittee of the Committee shall provide the Committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the subcommittee and such other records with respect to the subcommittee as the Chairman of the Committee deems necessary for the Committee to comply with all rules and regulations of the House.

RULE 5—TRANSCRIPTS AND RECORDS

(a)(1) There shall be a transcript made of each regular and additional meeting and hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees. Any such transcript shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved.

(2) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and each of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of House rule XI and shall be available for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

(3) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administra-

tion shall be made available for public use in accordance with House rule VII. The Chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STRENGTH OF AMERICA'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some comments to the Chair in the Chamber in part from my position as a Congressman, but also in my prior career as a psychologist at a time when America's families are facing a great deal of struggle and turmoil under the shadow of terrorism and the current code we are facing.

I believe, as I am sure the Chair did, the strength of America's future can be measured by the strength of America's families. We also know that the weapons of terrorists include more than just their horrible weapons of mass destruction or the threat to use them, but it is also in their abilities to instill fear and worry among a people, and it is important that we do not let them.

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We all know the police, the FBI, CIA, thousands of soldiers, and our homeland security team are working to be constantly vigilant to keep out those trying to harm us and hurt our families. But I would also like to help Americans know that there are things people can be doing in each and every one of their homes, as adults and children alike are struggling at this time over what to do.

I am sure my colleagues' offices have been inundated, as have mine, with calls from folks who are hearing about such things as stocking up on goods and supplies, getting duct tape and plastic and having it around their

house in case they need it because of the level of threat and worries. These are all things that are actions we should take just probably in the normal course of things, making sure we have some safety devices around the home. But it is important we do not succumb to the types of things terrorists want us to worry about.

When terrorists threaten societies, they try to instill fear and helplessness among citizens. They seek to hold a society or government hostage by the fear of destruction or harm. It evokes a fundamental sense of helplessness, which can lead to other psychological stresses and problems. And as we are trying to cope with the irrational information that is beyond our comprehension, to know that people are trying to harm us, it can set up a whole chain of psychological events culminating in fear, helplessness, vulnerability, and grief. Those things, in turn, have an impact upon our society, our economy, as they affect our spending and our optimism.

Let me offer some suggestions that America's families and parents can use to cope with these struggles as they face us. First of all, it is very important that adults be aware of the feelings that they may be experiencing. Understand that these feelings are normal reactions to an abnormal, stressful situation. It is important that adults educate themselves on how to handle the situation, what to do in response and to prepare themselves and their families.

It is important to remember that all of us have faced adversity and trauma in the past, and try to remember what we did to pull up our own courage and strength to overcome fear and helplessness. It is also important to talk to others about our fears and understand that it is okay to ask for help. It is important to make efforts to maintain the usual routines, to think positively, to recognize that terrorists are trying to create fear, and know we should not succumb to them.

It is also important, as adults, that we limit some of our exposure to media coverage. The networks are now filled with news. The daily news, the news channels, constantly barrage us with information, and it reaches a point where people should finally turn it all off so they can get on with their lives and, of course, also do other things to reduce stress, getting out, doing their jobs, exercising.

I also want to mention some things, Mr. Speaker, that are important for children. Many children struggle with knowing just what to say and understanding their own feelings; and it is important for parents to connect with them, to talk with them and encourage them to speak about how they are feeling about events. Ask children what they have seen or heard or experienced, particularly important among preteens and teens, who may spend a lot of time on the Internet or talk to other peers. Gossip spreads quickly among kids,

and it is important adults get involved and help them understand facts.

Assure children that parents and other adults are taking care of them, that they will continue to help them deal with anything that makes them feel afraid. It is also helpful to let children know that they have experienced troubles before, and let them pull up their own courage that has helped them overcome those troubles. It is helpful to remind them to do their best at whatever they are doing, their homework, their activities, their chores or hobbies, because it is that sense of mastery which gives all of us an ability to deal with these troubled times.

Let me also say it is important for parents and children to spend time praying together, for hope, for peace, and just the very act of keeping families together.

During these troubled times, let us remember this, that this Nation, this great Nation that was founded in the pursuit of liberty, fed by daily acts of courage and strengthened by exercising our freedom, will remain strong and great. And know that every family builds upon their strength and hope and courage. That is what stands between us and terrorists and that is what will help us remain victorious and strong as a nation.

Mr. Speaker, during this time I know that these are the things that will help our families in America. The bonds of our families in America will help us remain strong as we face these troubles.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Group of the North Atlantic Assembly:

Mr. BEREUTER of Nebraska, Chairman;

Mr. REGULA of Ohio;
Mr. HEFLEY of Colorado;
Mr. GILLMOR of Ohio;
Mr. GOSS of Florida;
Mr. EHLERS of Michigan;
Mr. MCINNIS of Colorado; and
Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CASE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INTRODUCTION OF SAFE FOR AMERICA ACT 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Security and Fairness Enhancement, or SAFE, for America Act of 2003. This much-needed bipartisan legislation eliminates the controversial immigration program, the visa lottery program, which threatens national security, resulting in the unfair administration of our Nation's immigration laws, and encouraging a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Each year, approximately 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States via the visa lottery program. This program presents a serious national security threat. Under the program, each successful applicant is chosen at random and given the status of permanent resident based on pure luck. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohammed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of last year. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connection with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our Nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws.

In addition, most family- or employer-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas. Yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family- and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A recent report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the visa lottery program multiple times using different aliases and other false personal information. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in